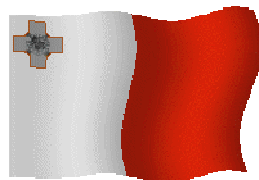


MARL



MALTA



Magazine by MARL

For Maltese and Gozitan
Radio Amateurs

Number 40
July 2009



Tpejjipx
No Smoking

Smoking is prohibited at the Centre

From the Editor

Friends,

I welcome you to another issue of this magazine for July 2009, which is issue 40 of this series.

MARL held another examination for those who wanted to acquire a radio amateur license, which examination was held on Saturday 27 June. We congratulate those who passed the examination, **Thomas Colin** (including **CW**) and **Cordina Publius** to be quick to get their license from the Communications Authority and we hope to speak to them on the air shortly.

In this magazine you have photos of the **MARL** sign which was made for us by **Albert 9H5AP** together with his brother who work in this sector in their factory and which we have put up above the Club door.

This is not the only contribution that **Albert 9H5AP** gave us for free, because the streamer that was used at the **Mtarfa** activity as well as at the **Spring Fair** at **San Anton Garden** was also given to **MARL** by **Albert**.

One can enter on the internet webpage of the factory of **9H5AP** and his brother which is <http://www.signservicesmalta.com/>

We thank them on behalf of the Committee and on behalf of **MARL** for their contribution to **MARL** for which we have not spent a single cent.

In this Magazine you also have details about a **BBQ** that is going to be organized for Saturday 18 July from 7.30 in the evening onwards.

We hope to see everyone together with their family to enjoy ourselves together in a family environment while at the same time we will be helping our organization. Book early so that you will not be disappointed.

Apart from this **BBQ** there are also other activities that are in the pipeline for August and September where we will again meet together with the family while enjoying ourselves at the **MARL** Club. Do not forget to be attentive for notices on this magazine and the yahoo group.

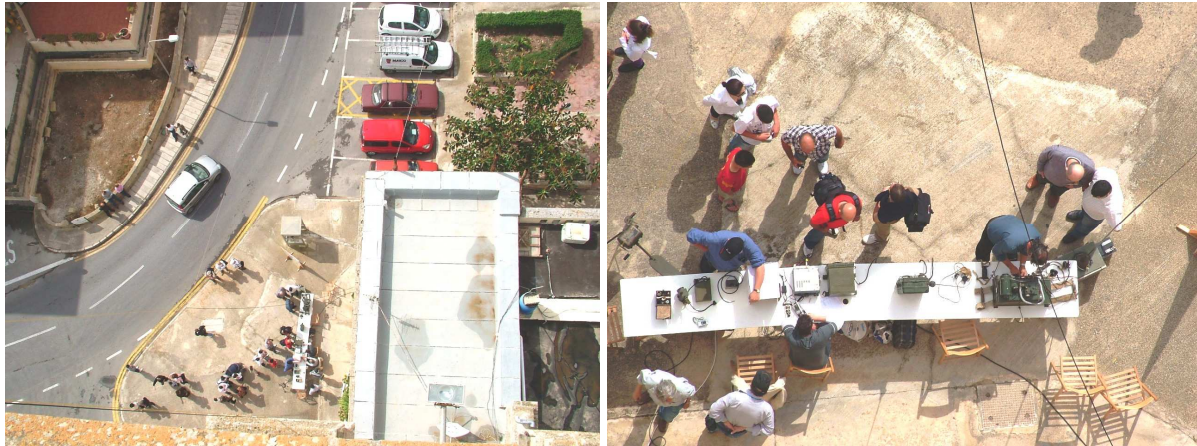
As always, I hope that you find the information in the magazine useful to you and if you have some article please leave it in my **QSL** box or you can send it to me on my e-mail **9h1av at searchmalta dot com**.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Photos of the activity at Mtarfa

As I told you in the last issue of this magazine MARL took part in the activity **Military Day** at **Mtarfa** on Sunday 17 May 2009.

Today I am going to give you some more photos, among them of the clock which as I said last time I have no doubt that they will interest you.



From the top of the Tower (34 metres high)



The bells in the Tower



The clock that has been working since 1895



Another view of the clock



Clock pendulum



Iron staircase

The last part near the bells (left)

Photos by **9H1AV**

As can be seen from photos further down taken by **Joe, 9H1AJ**, there is a spiral staircase for one to go up near the clock.

Then there is another flight of iron stairs that can be seen on the left photo for one to go up near the bells of which there are three.

For one to go on the roof where the rotary dipole was fixed as well as from where the view photos were taken there is an iron ladder fixed to the wall and a trap door to prevent water seeping in.

Further down you have other photos taken by **Joe, 9H1AJ**.



The clock which has four quadrants



Watch weights wire rope



Tower Bells



A bell marked 1895



Arthur 9H1PS



Joe 9H1JM



Spiral staircase to the top of the Tower

**Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR**

Sign Photos



On top can be seen the **MARL** sign while on the side it appears fixed on top of the door of our Club where it is lit during the evening and therefore serves as an advert for **MARL** even during the evening.

Hereunder is the sign of the company of **Albert 9H5AP** and his brother whose internet webpage is <http://www.signservicesmalta.com/>



We thank **Albert 9H5AP** and his brother for their generous offer.

If there is anyone or any company that can offer something useful for **MARL** it can contact the Secretary or a Committee member and we thank them beforehand.

BBQ for July

Like previous years the Committee thought to organize some activities for the summer months, both to meet together in an informal and familiar manner and together with our families at our Club we enjoy ourselves as well as for the profits from these activities to be a useful help for our organization **MARL**.

The first activity is going to be a **BBQ** which is going to be held on **Saturday 18 July from 7.30 evening onwards**, while other activities are also planned where we will enjoy ourselves. Book early so as not to be disappointed.

We hope that these activities will be a success so that we can keep up with the expenses that today are huge especially due to the high electricity and water tariffs that we have to pay at commercial rates notwithstanding that we are a non-profit organization.

Summer B-B-Q

Date: 18 July 2009
Hin: 7.30 evening
Prices Adults: €12
Children <<12 years €0 (Free)
Food: Steak, Pork, Chicken,
choice of 7 salads, Free glass of
wine.
Children <12 years sausages
and chicken
Dessert: Fruit salad
Ibbukkjar: by Sunday 12 July

Name & callsign:
Number of persons:
Children under 12 years:

Please find payment of
..... **enclosed**
with this application.
Cheques payable to Malta Amateur
Radio League

All those on a special diet contact
Joe, 9H1AJ

See you

Book early not to be disappointed

500kHz

The Irish regulator Comreg has just issued permits for radio amateurs to work on a frequency of **500kHz** between **501** to **504kHz**. Up to now there have been eight that have this permit.

It was reported that **CW** activity in Ireland was good with excellent signal strength. Those who already hold a permit are looking forward to increased activity from the Western side.

And in Malta we continue waiting until all the radio amateurs from around the world will have been given permission and would be fed up working on this frequency.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

The oldest working radio beacon

Here you have a few details about the oldest radio amateur radio beacon that has been working for more than 50 years. This is **OZ7IGY** and is found in **Denmark** and has a number of transmitters on different frequencies as appears hereunder.

These radio beacons are in a room built in 1905 which has been refurbished and which is a few metres from the highest point in the neighbourhood, Slettebjerg, which is 95 metres high above sea level. The antennas are fixed on a 10-metre mast on the roof of the room.

Frequency MHz	Power Watts	Antenna	Height above sea level	Method of transmission
40.021 MHz	22	X dipoles	97 Metres	F1A spaced 250Hz
50.021 MHz	30	Big wheel	100 "	" " "
70.021 MHz	25	" "	102 "	" " "
144.471 MHz	25	" "	104 "	" " 400Hz
432.471 MHz	30	" "	105 "	" " "
432.471 MHz	30	6 el yagi 35 ⁰	99 "	" " "
1296.930 MHz	12	Big wheel +1dB	98 "	" " "
2320.930 MHz	4	Alford Slot +7dB	100 "	" " "
3400.930 MHz	9	Slot +6db	" "	" " "
5760.930 MHz	6	Omni Slot +10dB	91 "	" " "
5760.930 MHz	1.5	400Werp 40cm 35 ⁰	" "	" " "
10368.930 MHz	0.5	Bi-direcional 92M Waveguide slot +10dB EW		
24048.930 MHz	PLANNED			

It appears that someone may hear these beacons up to **144 MHz**, but on higher frequencies it will have to be a miracle especially when one considers that one of the antennas on **432.471 MHz** is turned towards **35⁰**. There is no need to talk about higher frequencies.

Whoever wants to try to hear one of these beacons can do so, but apart from this it's good to know them so that if you happen to be in Denmark you would know what you can hear.

The internet webpage is <http://www.oz7igy.dk/>

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR

Ships Lighthouses

Since we have talked about beacons I should remind you that all those interested to work in the Lighthouses and Light Ships activity that is held every year should prepare everything. This year this activity is going to be held between 15 and 16 August.

Up to last year some 400 Lighthouses / Lightships from some 50 countries from around the world had taken part. Malta had also taken part at other times and therefore all those who like to work outside should not lose such an opportunity.

Some information on when **Ghawdex** took part in this activity.

1998	9H4GRS	Gordan Lighthouse	
1999	9H4GRS	Gordan Lighthouse	
2001	9H4GRS	Gordan Lighthouse	
2002	9H4GRS	Gordan Lighthouse	
2003	9H4GS/GL	Gordan Lighthouse	sbauto at onvol dot net dot mt
2004	9H4GRS/P	Gordan Lighthouse	

It appears that **Malta** has never taken part in this activity and till now it was only **Ghawdex** that took part. Is there anyone who is thinking about taking part in this activity? Do not forget that there is the **Delimara Lighthouse** and the **Breakwater lighthouse**. The **Delimara Lighthouse** is easier.

An application form may be downloaded from http://illw.net/contact_us.php

The use of radio equipment in the car

There were some radio amateurs who while driving were using their equipment from their car and were stopped by some wardens because they told them that they cannot use their equipment and wanted to hand them a contravention ticket.

I say it straight away that the wardens do not know the provisions of the law which have been purposely made so that radio equipment could be used from vehicles. Had these provisions not been made all those who make use of this equipment including the police, armed forces, ambulances, taxis, public transport, privates would have been breaking the law.

Therefore, notwithstanding what I have previously written, I am going to write again so that all those who use their radio equipment from their car know where they stand.

First of all the operation of two-way radio equipment is regulated by **Legal Notice 3 of 2007** that one can download from the Government internet webpage at <http://www.doi.gov.mt/EN/legalnotices/2007/01/LN3.pdf>

This legal notice amends **Subsidiary Legislation 65.11** with the title **Motor Vehicles Regulations**, published on 27 September 1994, and subsequently amended several times.

Subsidiary Legislation 65.11 in Maltese can be downloaded from the Government internet webpage on <http://docs.justice.gov.mt/lom/legislation/maltese/subleg/65/11.pdf> and in English from <http://docs.justice.gov.mt/lom/legislation/english/subleg/65/11.pdf>

I suggest that you download them and keep a copy in your vehicle so that if some wardens stop you, you can show them these two provisions. If you want to keep the relevant parts which in the case of **Subsidiary Legislation 85.11** are pages **24 and 25** for the Maltese version and pages **23 and 24** for the English version. A copy of **Legal Notice 3 of 2007** and **Subsidiary Legislation 65.11** can also be downloaded from **MARL** internet webpage

Legal Notice 3 of 2007 is both in Maltese and English in the same document and for the Maltese version the pages are **5 (B35) and 6 (B36)**, and for the English version the pages are **13 (B 43) and 14 (B44)**.

Pages **5 u 6** are marked **B35 and B36** because those are the pages in the Government Gazette Supplement where these provisions are found, but when you open the legal Notice on the computer the pages will be shown as pages **5 u 6**. The same applies for pages **13 and 14**.

In fact, if you download **Subsidiary Legislation 65.11** it is enough because all that is written in **Legal Notice 3 of 2007** is found in **Article 115** of **Subsidiary Legislation 65.11**.

It's good to know that **Legal Notice 3 of 2007** has 16 pages while **Subsidiary Legislation 65.11** has 61 pages.

Meaning of two-way radio

“two-way radio” means any wireless apparatus which is designed or adapted for the purpose of transmitting and receiving spoken messages”

Article 115 of these regulations, that is, **Subsidiary Legislation 65.11** is the relevant article as well as the introduction to these regulations.

Use of mobile phones and other devices.
Substituted by: L.N. 3 of 2007.

115. (1) No person shall drive any motor vehicle whilst wearing or using on both ears earphones or headphones or any other device which may hinder or is likely to hinder that person from hearing properly.

Comments

It is clear that this applies to cellular telephones or other equipment and specifically to the use of earphones or headphones in both ears because if you do so you cannot hear some traffic signals.

Therefore, it is only the use of one earphone or headphone that is permissible and this applies to all equipment that one may be using.

Now we come to sub-article 2 of this article.

This provides that,

(2) No person shall drive a motor vehicle on a road if that person is holding and, or using a hand-held mobile telephone or any other similar hand-held device, other than a hand-free device or a two-way radio, while the motor vehicle is in motion.

Comments

This provision requires close examination. What we first see is that a cellular telephone or similar handheld cannot be used, **always provided that the vehicle is in motion.**

“any other similar hand-held device” includes equipment such as mp3 record players, personal radios that use earphones or headphones and similar equipment.

This is because to operate them, increase or decrease the volume, search for stations, etc. you have to hold them in your hands. Then there is the exemption on equipment not held in the hands where it is said **“other than a hand-free device”**.

This means that you can use a cellular telephone and equipment as I have mentioned further up if this is not hand held, which equipment can be found because nowadays it is common equipment.

Then there is the exemption where our hobby and equipment is concerned where it is said **“or a two-way radio”**.

His means that since our equipment is a **two-way radio**, radio amateurs can use their radio equipment from their vehicles even while it is in motion.

Here an issue may arise about what type or **two-way radio** can be used, whether it is that which is normally attached to the vehicle or even that which we hold in our hands.

My interpretation and opinion is that any type of **two-way radio** may be used, both that which is **attached to the vehicle** as well as that **held in the hands**. This also includes equipment that is **attached to the vehicle and is controlled and operated from the hand held microphone**.

This is because the words **two-way radio** are not qualified that it cannot be held in the hands as are qualified the words **“hand-held mobile telephone or any other similar hand-held device”**, so much so that it is distinct from a cellular telephone and other hand held equipment, and therefore a **two-way radio** is exempt from the prohibition.

Note the words that are exempting **two-way radio** equipment, **“other than a hand-free device or a two-way radio”**.

Therefore, a vehicle driver can not only use any type of equipment that is not hand held while the vehicle is in motion, but also a **two-way radio**, both if it is **attached to the vehicle** as well as **hand held**.

This exemption does not mean that anyone using a two-way radio should not be constantly attentive for traffic and road conditions. In fact, we should be more careful that our attention is not distracted through using our equipment.

If you are stopped by a warden or perhaps even a policeman who perhaps does not know about these regulations show them to him. If you need any legal assistance please inform me. My e-mail is **9h1av at searchmalta dot com**.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Information about SOHO

If one is interested on what is happening on the sun, and there is no doubt that one should be interested because we know how it affects propagation strongly can go to the [NASA](#) internet webpage where he can get much information.

However, one can also go to the [SOHO](#) webpage where s/he can acquire information collected by this satellite that is collecting all sorts of information of what is happening all the time. The [SOHO](#) internet webpage, which is an acronym for [Solar Heliosphere Observatory](#) is <http://soho.esac.esa.int/>

Whoever is interested can also download a [CD](#) with images that had been taken by this satellite apart from a number of other items such as pictures for the computer and other items. Here you have a few images from the [SOHO](#) internet webpage.



Solar wind speed

For photos taken by astronauts go to <http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/>

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Activities

Summer B-B-Q

Further up you have information about the BBQ that the MARL Committee is going to organize on Saturday 18 July at the MARL Club in H'Attard. Do not leave booking late because you will disappoint yourselves. Be attentive for other activities further on.

Yahoo Group

Be attentive and become members in the yahoo group to be fully informed with the latest activities that we intend to hold. Do not forget that we are going to have activities for the next three months which may not be able to appear on this magazine because it may have already been issued and therefore the notice will be sent on the yahoo group. Therefore make sure that if you are not already in the group to become members so that you will not lose any activity that we will be organizing.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR